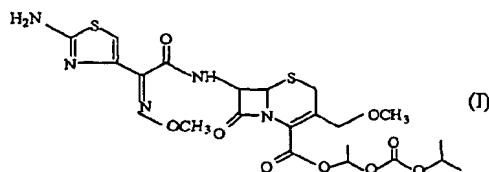


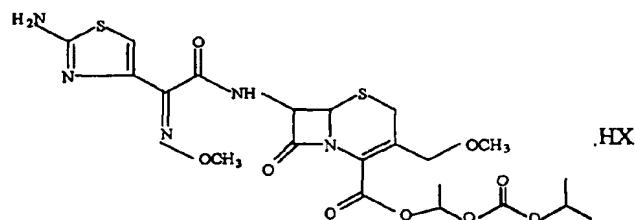
Claims:

1. A process for the preparation of cefpodoxime proxetil of formula (I), of high purity conforming to pharmacopoeial specifications,



which comprises

- c) adding hydrogen halide to a solution of impure cefpodoxime proxetil in an organic solvent and isolating the hydrohalide salt of cefpodoxime proxetil thus formed, and



Cefpodoxime hydrohalide salt

- d) dissolving the cefpodoxime proxetil hydrohalide salt obtained in the above step in a water-miscible or water-immiscible organic solvent and neutralizing the salt thus formed with a base followed by isolation of cefpodoxime proxetil in pure form.
2. A process according to claim 1, wherein said water miscible organic solvent is selected from an alcohol, tetrahydrofuran and acetonitrile.
3. A process according to claim 2, wherein said alcohol is selected from methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, isobutyl alcohol, tertiary butanol.
4. A process according to claim 1 wherein said water immiscible solvent is selected from a ketonic solvent, ethyl acetate, methyl isobutyl ketone, chloroform, dichloromethane and 1,2-dichloroethane.
5. A process according to claim 4 wherein said ketonic solvent is selected from acetone, methyl ethyl ketone and methyl isobutyl ketone.
6. A process according to claim 5, wherein said ketonic solvent is employed in a volume of from 2.0 to 7.0 times the weight of the impure cefpodoxime proxetil.

7. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein said hydrohalide is selected from hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid and hydroiodic acid.
8. A process according to claim 7, wherein the molar ratio of the hydrogen halide used is 1.0 to 1.5 times of cefpodoxime proxetil.
- 5 9. A process according to of claim 1, wherein the hydrohalide salt is isolated by filtration.
10. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein said base is an inorganic base.
- 10 11. A process according to claim 10, wherein said inorganic base is selected from sodium bicarbonate, sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate and potassium bicarbonate.
12. A process according to any preceding claim, wherein the pure cefpodoxime proxetil is isolated by filtration.
13. A process according any preceding claim, wherein said pure cefpodoxime proxetil
15 has a diastereomeric ratio between 0.50 and 0.60.
14. A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein said treatment of hydrohalide salt of cefpodoxime with said base is carried out in 15 to 45 minutes, preferably, 30 minutes.
15. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 14 wherein said treatment with said base is
20 carried out at a temperature of 15 to 40°C., preferably, 25 to 30°C.
16. A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein after said treatment with said base, said reaction mixture is agitated for 60 minutes.

25

30